

From: [Marcia McDougal](#)
To: [Billington, Tracie;](#)
CC: [sfarahnak@waterboards.ca.gov;](mailto:sfarahnak@waterboards.ca.gov)
Subject: Davenport Sanitation District Grant
Date: Wednesday, February 07, 2007 12:42:46 PM
Attachments:

Ms. Tracie Billington
Department of Water Resources

tracieb@water.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Billington:

I sincerely hope you will approve funding to the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department in response to the Davenport Sanitation District's grant proposal. The Davenport District is required by the State Department of Health to provide a water treatment plant which will comply with new water quality standards, especially during winter flows. Without government assistance, our small, rural community of 350 residents is faced with how to purchase a \$700,000 water treatment facility to comply with the State mandate.

Until we have a new facility, residents have been advised to boil our drinking and cooking water for safety during the winter months as the turbidity is so high that it prevents the present system from filtering it.

Meanwhile, our water fees, which are billed through homeowners'

property taxes, have risen at an astronomical rate. In 2002, water rates for residential users were \$312 a year. This year, the rates rose 70% from \$715 in 2005 to \$1,200 in 2006 and are expected to rise another \$200 in 2007. We have numerous retired residents on fixed incomes as well as low-income families for whom these rates are a major hardship.

In addition to the residents, there are several businesses and an elementary school which are being charged exorbitant rates for water that has been declared non-potable. Pacific Elementary School has 120 students and 30 employees who are drinking bottled water while paying \$3,225 for water service charges plus an additional \$1,200 for water fees via property taxes. Whale City Bakery Bar & Grill, a local business which our family operated for many years, has been paying \$6000 per year for water treatment, and is now threatened with closure by the health department unless it installs its own system to purify the water, because the District is unable to do so.

Our situation is desperate. We are the only District in Santa Cruz county which does not have a reliable source of potable water. We urgently call upon you to approve funding for Santa Cruz County Public Works proposal under the Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. McDougal and Marcia McDougal

Cc: Ms. Shala Farahnak, State Water Resources Control Board

sfarahnak@waterboards.ca.gov